

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 23-25 are currently being canceled.

Claims 1, 4, 13 and 16 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment amends and cancels claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Claims 1-22 are presently pending for further consideration.

Statement Concerning Claim for Convention Priority:

Applicants note that the Office Action Summary indicates that a claim for convention priority has been made in this case, and that certified copies of the priority documents have been received. However, this application is a first-filed U.S. patent application, whereby no claim for convention priority has been made.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1, 13 and 23-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,935,262 to Barrett in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,914,789 to Murata; claims 2, 3, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barrett in view of Murata and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,043,899 to Morohashi et al.; claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barrett in view of Murata and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,459,504 to Murano et al.; claims 6-8 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barrett, Murata and Murano and further in view of Morohashi et al.; and claims 9-12 and 19-

22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barrett, Murata, Murano et al. and Morohashi et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,804,016 to Hashimoto et al. These rejections are traversed with respect to the presently pending claims under rejection, for at least the reasons given below.

Presently pending independent claims 1, 4, 13 and 16 have each been amended to include features in which a CPU checks whether the apparatus is connected to a LAN and determines that the coded information is to be output to the LAN if the apparatus is connected to the LAN, checks whether the apparatus is connected to a telephone line if the apparatus is not connected to the LAN and determines that the coded information is to be output to the telephone line if the apparatus is connected to the telephone line, and determines that the coded information is to be printed out if the apparatus is not connected to the LAN or to the telephone line.

None of the cited art of record teaches or suggests the above-mentioned features recited in each of the presently pending independent claims under rejection.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of

papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R.
§1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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